



AIDE MEMOIRE

Summary of decisions of NSW managed returns since 26 July

Date:	30 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-0350

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Privacy of natural persons	Senior Policy Advisor		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

N/A

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments



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Date:	30 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
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Purpose

To provide you with a summary of decisions regarding managed returns from New South Wales since 26 July 2021.

Kara Isaac
Group Manager, MIQ Policy
Managed Isolation and Quarantine, MBIE

30.7.21

A third phase of NSW managed returns has been agreed

1. Over the course of the week since 26 July 2021, MBIE has provided Minister Verrall with two sets of advice seeking agreement to a third phase of managed returns from New South Wales (NSW) [briefings NSW-009 / 2122-0297 and NSW-010 / 2122-0326].
2. Phase two of managed returns from NSW (28 July- 8 August) has been fully allocated across the 530 rooms. Officials do not yet have a clear understanding of the residual demand of those seeking to return to New Zealand from NSW.
3. On 29 July 2021, Minister Verrall decided to proceed with a phase three of managed returns from NSW from 9 - 22 August 2021 and to capture information at the same time on what the total demand is for travel from NSW to New Zealand. This will also help inform and potential further managed returns from NSW beyond phase three if needed.
4. Minister Verrall decided:
 - MBIE will provide 500 rooms from the QFT Reserve, with 320 rooms available from 9 – 15 August 2021 and the remaining 180 rooms available during 16-22 August 2021.
 - MBIE will continue cohorting within managed isolation facilities through phase three.
 - MBIE has established a web-form on the Unite Against COVID-19 website that allows us to simultaneously understand total demand for any remaining NSW travellers and allows travellers to indicate any urgent or exceptions need to travel. The form is available from 10:00am 30 July – 2:00pm 3 August (NZT).
 - The urgent and exceptional criteria for phase three is the same as for phase one and two. Details of passengers with an urgent or exceptional need to travel will be passed immediately onto airlines. Airlines will then contact passengers to book flights. No flights will be put onto market for general sale under phase three.

- The form also allows people to express others reasons for travel such as “to continue my business or employment in New Zealand” and “to study of complete a professional qualification in New Zealand”. This information will allow us to generate a fuller picture of total demand from NSW, but will not be used for prioritisation.
 - If demands exceeds the 500 places, MBIE could also utilise an additional 300 rooms from 9-22 August from vouchers that have not yet been released from the final ten percent voucher release onto MIAS.
5. Demand has been higher than anticipated during the initial hours of opening the web-form. MBIE will provide you with finalised figures on registration demand early next week. This will also include whether the level of demand requires prioritisation or if the additional 300 MIQ rooms might be required.

MBIE has also provided information on additional MIQ capacity

6. On 29 July, MBIE responded to a request for information on additional MIQ capacity from Minister Verrall. This briefing [2122-0339] indicated that an expedited timeframe for assessing and commissioning any new MIQ facilities would take a minimum of eight weeks (without any unforeseen issues).
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7. MBIE will provide you with advice on potential new MIQ facilities for further feasibility work on 3 August 2021.